identified villages with population of more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs).

(b) As per role-out condition, RIL had to provide 20% of the RCPs by September, 2005 and another 40% by September, 2006. As on 31st March, 2006 the roll-out of RIL comes out to be 8,584 RCPs which is 40% of the total number of RCPs on proportionate basis. As against this proportionate role-out target of 8,584, the number of RCPs provided by RIL as on 31 st March, 2006 is 8950.

. (c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Popularization of HAM radio among youth

891. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of HAM operators trained by the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), Hyderabad as on 31 st March, 2006;

(b) the steps taken by his Ministry to popularize the concept of Amateur Radio (HAM) among the youth in view of its effectiveness and reliability during natural calamities;

(c) whether Government propose to set up Regional Centres of NIAR in different parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) As per information received from National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), a Non-Government Organization like other Amateur Radio Clubs, 1685 candidates/HAM operators have been trained by them till 31.03.2006.

(b) The Examination and Licensing process for Amateur Radio Operators (HAM) have been simplified. The examinations for Radio Amateurs are conducted periodically all over the country. Various projects for popularizing the HAM activity in the country are taken up by Amateur Radio Clubs, some of which have the support of this Ministry.

(c) and (d) NIAR and other Amateur Radio Clubs, being private (Non-Government) bodies set up their regional centers as per their program.

Booking of cargo by post offices

892. SHRIMATIHEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post offices would book cargo in Indian and other domestic airlines as its diversification plan;

(b) if so, what about pick-up, insurance and delivery of consignments;

(c) the cities where it would be launched; and

(d) by when the scheme is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No decision has been taken regarding the booking of air cargo by the post office.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Road map for becoming an IT Super Power

893. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONSAND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGYbe pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge number of applications for patenting technology product has been filed;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of applications the nature of products, the status of applications;

(c) the number of ratio of Intellectual Property applications filed by the private sector and the public sector;

(d) the steps taken and priority attached by Government to R&D efforts, especially in knowledge sector; and

(e) the futu[e road map visualized by the country for becoming an IT Superpower?